



On Watch

News for Naval Reservists in the Northeast Region

Winter 2002 - 2003

January 2003

NE Reservists Support USCENTCOM

Serving in both Tampa and Bahrain, they stand ready for possible action

By ENS Kaye Trammell, USNR
MOPAT Detachment 208

Manama, Bahrain -- The United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) staff in Tampa, Fla. And Manama, Bahrain, has grown exponentially since the terrorist attacks last year, and is making extensive use of Reservists - some from the Northeast.

USCENTCOM is a joint unified service command. Many Reservists from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard have been recalled in the last year to support USCENTCOM and the war on terrorism. More than 200 Naval Reservists are currently serving their country at USCENTCOM.

"They called it an involuntary recall, but almost everyone who was here wanted to be here," said Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Roger Morgan, who was a 7th grade science teacher with a five-month-old son in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., when the attacks



LCDR Matt Pruitt greets Commander In Chief, US Central Command, General Tommy Franks, in Manama, Bahrain in July 2002.

occurred.

"I am happy to be here helping out," says LCDR Matt Pruitt from New York, currently operating in the N4 shop of Naval Forces component of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in Manama, Bahrain. He is one of 44 Liaison officers from 15 nations present to coordinate the complex Maritime missions essential to the eradication of organized terrorism

and deter its re-emergence in the CENTCOM AOR.

In his civilian life, he is an employee of Morgan Stanley, one of the brokerages hardest hit in the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings on 9/11.

"For the time being I am in an interesting situation," says Pruitt. "I can simultaneously appreciate the feelings of my

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In this issue... Navy beats Army — Damage Control — New Web Portals — and more!

CENTCOM (Continued from page 1)

Morgan Stanley co-workers, from both a military officer's perspective and as a co-worker. 9/11 touched every Morgan Stanley employee world wide. When my coalition military counterparts hear that I am employed by Morgan Stanley they all have paused with deepest regards for our losses."

Chief Yeoman Stephanie De La Paz was looking for meaningful work upon her recall. However, she felt that her Reservist husband was more likely to get recalled.

So when the call came to her several months after the terrorist attacks, she was shocked that she was "the one." As she prepared to leave behind her husband and newly adopted 8-year-old daughter, De La Paz was ready to answer the call and serve her country.

"I felt that if I'm going to be mobilized, they should give me a 'real job' with tangible results to keep working to directly affect the mission," said De La Paz. "I've found that at USCENTCOM. They don't limit you. They find your ability and draw from that."

It is that dedication to drawing from each service members' ability that keeps US-

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Admiral's Corner

As I write this, it's the Holiday Season with 2003 just around the corner. The past 12 months have seen us called upon to respond to the threat of terrorism, and you have proved to be up to that challenge. The year to come has the potential for even greater need for a READY Naval Reserve. The threat of terrorism has not diminished and the purveyors of weapons of mass destruction need our ever watchful eye and, perhaps, in conjunction with our allies, our direct action. Action to ensure that all who would live in peace and pursue freedom from tyranny and oppression may do so without threat. Threat of those who have and would again use chemical, biological or nuclear weapons on their own people and others worldwide.

Our mission is, and will remain, training to be ready. Being ready requires a steady strain and consistent attention-to-detail because we need to prepare our families and our employers. We need to be ready professionally, ready medically, good to go on the dental issues. Our sea-bags need to be full with



the uniforms required. Ready, for us, means wills and powers-of-attorney completed... it's also a state of mind. Ready to keep America always strong and ever just!

I'm proud to have the opportunity to lead a REDCOM that continually sets the standards for like commands across our nation. I am proud of my staff in Newport with their day-in-and-day-out professionalism. I am proud of the customer service centered initiatives our Reserve Centers have adopted in helping all of you to get trained and ready. I am most proud to lead sailors who have responded to the call to mobilize and those who prepare everyday.

May God bless each of you and your families in 2003 keeping you strong, courageous, and committed to keeping America safe.

NRC Bronx Says Drugs and Youths Don't Mix

By Ens. James McCue, NR
NAVINFO East 102

BRONX, NY -- Naval Reserve Center, Bronx recently hosted its 4th annual Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program for 49 children living in the Bronx. The two week program at the Bronx site brought together Navy personnel, local law enforcement and civilian counselors in a concerted effort to steer children clear of drugs and in the right direction through education, discipline and community outreach. The program ran July 15 – 26, 2002.

According to the Commanding Officer of NRC Bronx, Cdr. Paul Martirano, it is vital for the reserve center to become involved in the community, particularly the DEFY program, because sailors can pass on their experience and leadership – borne out of years of naval service – to make a difference in children's lives.

"Most of us here are parents ourselves, so helping children is important," said Cdr. Martirano.

DEFY is a two-phase program that provides kids ages 9-12 with the tools to resist negative influences in their

lives. The program is designed to help children avoid drugs, alcohol and gangs by teaching them how to enhance their social, physical, drug-resistant and self-management skills in Phase I of the curriculum, which took place during the two-week program at the reserve center. Phase II is a year of one-on-one mentoring.

Cdr. Martirano explained that the role of Naval Reserve Center, Bronx was two-fold: primarily to host the event by making the facility available, and secondly, to actively involve the sailors in counseling the children. The children received instruction in military bearing and ceremonies, physical readiness and the importance of education in order to instill in them a sense of discipline for the mind and body and to expose them to positive influences as alternatives to drugs, alcohol and gangs.

Cdr. Martirano expressed gratitude to the 18 counselors who participated each day, hailing from the 40th and 43rd Precincts of the New York City Police Department, the Army National Guard, the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District-New York as well as

local community service organizations. He especially extolled the cooperative effort among the different agencies that marked the two weeks of character development and drug awareness.

"It gave us a chance to work with other services in the area in a community-wide effort to point these kids in the right direction," added Cdr. Martirano.

Participating counselors echoed those sentiments and praised the Naval Reserve Center, Bronx for being a vital part of their program.

"The DEFY Phase I program was a great success this year," said Gail Smeragulioulo of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District-New York. "The United States Naval Reserve Center, Bronx has hosted DEFY for the past four years, and it is a great opportunity for the kids to experience the military at work."

Naval Reserve Center, Bronx is the largest Naval Reserve Center in the Northeast, with more than 900 drilling reservists. It is responsible for training the men and women attached to the Center for mobilization to active duty.

Thrift Savings Plan Makes Saving, Investing Easy

By JOSHUA David Beyea, USS
Kitty Hawk Public Affairs

ABOARD USS KITTY HAWK, At Sea -- Saving for retirement has become easier for Reservists with the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP).

According to the Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services, by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, TSP is a retirement savings and investment plan sponsored by the federal government. Created in 1986 by Congress, TSP was originally only available to civilian federal employees. TSP became available to uniformed service members Oct. 30, 2000, when President Clinton signed the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001. Now, service members can take advantage of the TSP program.

"The Thrift Savings Plan is the military's version of a 401(k) retirement plan," explained Aviation Electronics Technician Chief (AW) Vincent Riggs, Hawk's command financial specialist. "It's a tax-deferred savings plan to allow people to put something away and save."

TSP is a "defined contribution" retirement plan. This

means that the money received for retirement is based on how much you contribute to your account. This is different from the military's regular retirement plan, through which members receive retirement pay after 20 years of service, explained Riggs.

"If you contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan and get out of the Navy before 20 years, that money is yours," said Riggs.

That money could then be rolled into a 401(k), withdrawn early or left in the TSP account to earn money, explained Riggs.

The amount of money that goes into TSP is based on the percentage of pay a service member wishes to contribute to the account.

"The Navy will deduct up to 8 percent of your base pay and up to 100 percent of your incentive pay and bonuses," explained Riggs.

When signing up for TSP, the member decides how his money is invested. "There are five different funds you can invest in, anywhere from bonds to higher-risk investments in the stock market," said Riggs.

The member decides what

portion of his contribution goes into each of the five funds. If a fund is not chosen, the investment is placed in a G-fund, which consists of no-risk government bonds. "It's all up to the service member," said Riggs.

Another advantage to TSP is the ability to take a loan on your own money. "With the Thrift Savings Program, you can take a loan on your own money. You will pay interest on it. However, the money and interest you pay go back into your account," explained Riggs.

TSP is a good idea for every Sailor, said Fireman Zorian Sorrels, an engineering yeoman. "When I get out of the Navy, I want a nice retirement plan, and the Thrift Savings Plan is the way to go."

Under TSP, if a 22 year-old Sailor invests \$2,000 a year for six years, by the time he reaches age 65, he will have \$1.34 million in his account, according to Riggs.

The next available Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season for the uniformed services will to run from April 15 to June 30, 2003.

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Reserves Score Big to Beat Army



Sailors from USS Stout (DDG 55) conduct an underway replenishment. Reservists at NMCRC Amityville supported their visit to NYC.

By JO2 Joseph R. Holstead, NR NAVINFO East 102 NY

NEW YORK, NY - When Naval Reserve Destroyer Squadron 18 (NR DESRON 18) unit members from Naval and Marine Corp Reserve Center (NMCRC) Amityville, NY, heard that the Guided Missile Destroyer USS STOUT (DDG 55) would be visiting New York City over the first weekend in December, they were quick to step up and lend a hand to ensure the crew's visit was both enjoyable and memorable.

The STOUT sailed into New York harbor, along with the USS Saipan (LHA-2) for a quick port visit and to be on hand to attend the

103rd Army-Navy game, played this year at nearby Giants Stadium, in East Rutherford, NJ. As with many port visits, the anticipation of an exciting liberty was tempered by the fact that some of the crew would surely have to stay behind to tend the ship.

That's where the Amityville sailors earned their keep. BMC Steven Ansbach, NR DESRON 18 Command Chief, and three shipmates, Petty Officer First Class Mark Shoemaker of Hicksville, NY, Petty Officer First Class Robert Saenz also of West Islip, and Petty Officer Second Class Richard Freno, Mastic Beach, NY, came aboard to spare a few extra members of the crew so they

could both enjoy the game and a few extra hours exploring the Big Apple.

Part of NR DESRON 18's duties while aboard included assisting with ship tours and escorts. Children from the 101st and the 102nd NYPD Precinct Youth Associations, area YMCAs, and other VIPs and members of the public toured the ship.

But the benefit to the Navy went in more than in one direction. In addition to providing help to the active fleet, Ansbach and his fellow NMRC Amityville Reservists used the opportunity to update and hone their own military knowledge and skills.

"Changes in technology, from manual to electronic, are amazing to see – communications abilities are so advanced compared to '83," said Ansbach reflecting on the rapid technological changes to the fleet since he had served active duty from 1983 – 1988.

Perhaps the sweetest point of the weekend was when the regular crew returned, not only grateful for the opportunity for a little liberty, but particularly grateful for having been able to see Navy beat Army in a 58-12 rout!



At sea aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) Oct. 30, 2002 -- TMCS Ron Wood from Sylacauga, Ala., helps Sailors develop a long-term investment strategy for retirement during a Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) meeting aboard ship. U.S. Navy photo by PH3 Justin Proulx.

TSP - (Continued from page 4)

During the next two open seasons which are currently scheduled to run from April 15 to June 30, and Oct. 15 to Dec. 31 in 2003, Sailors can increase their basic pay contribution from 7 percent to 8 percent, and continue to contribute up to 100 percent of their special, incentive or bonus pays.

Also in 2003, the IRS elective deferral limit will increase from \$11,000 to \$12,000. The IRS elective deferral limit for 2004 is \$13,000; for 2005, \$14,000; and \$15,000 for 2006. For those serving in a combat zone, the ceiling for contributions is \$40,000.

"Time is of the essence," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing.

"I hope every Sailor who hasn't already enrolled in TSP takes a hard look at the program and their current financial situation in the days ahead to see if TSP is a viable option for them."

TSP investments may be directed to any of five different funds, which vary in risk and investment mixture. The five funds are government securities investment (G fund); fixed income investment (F fund); common stock index investment (C fund); small capitalization stock index investment (S fund); and international stock index investment (I fund). Contributions are initially directed to the G fund, and service members may then redirect their investment once the account is

active.

TSP enrollment can be done online through the "MYPAY" Web site (formerly called Employee Member Self Service (E/MSS)) at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>, or by completing a TSP enrollment form (TSP-U-1) and turning it in to the servicing pay or personnel office.

TSP enrollment forms are available at local Fleet and Family Support Centers, Personnel Support Detachments or online at the TSP Web Site, www.tsp.gov. Sailors who sign up or make changes to their TSP accounts via the "MYPAY" Web site should now have the option to print out a receipt of your transaction.

On Watch

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CMC's Corner

By YNCM (AW) F. Wolstencroft

Command Chiefs and Drilling Reservist Senior Enlisted Leader Continuum

In January the command chiefs and their drilling Reservist counterparts will be meeting in Worcester to select the Sailor of the Year and Bluejacket of the Year for the Region. This year we have added a new category – the Junior Sailor of the Year. The Sailor of the Year program will recognize an outstanding First Class Petty Officer. The Junior Sailor of the Year will be selected from outstanding Second and Third Class Petty Officers. The Bluejacket of the Year honors will be handed to a hard-charging Seaman, Fireman, Hospitalman, Constructionman, or Airman.

The purpose of these programs is to recognize those Sailors, both Full Time Support and Drilling Reservist, that have demonstrated sustained superior performance, outstanding achievements, professionalism, military bearing, continued educational achievement (both military and/or civilian), community and command involvement, and personal excellence. These are the qualities of our very best Sailors.

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DoD details smallpox vaccinations

WASHINGTON - The Department of Defense today highlighted its plan to prepare for and respond to possible smallpox attacks against servicemembers. The Smallpox Vaccination Program is consistent with FDA guidelines and the best practice of medicine. This program supports the national smallpox preparedness plans announced by the President, but is tailored to the unique requirements of the Armed Forces. Like civilian communities, DoD will ensure preparedness by immunizing personnel based on their occupational responsibilities. These include smallpox response teams and hospital and clinic workers. DoD will proceed to vaccinate other designated forces having critical mission capabilities. DoD will use existing FDA-licensed smallpox vaccine. Like other vaccinations this will be mandated for designated personnel unless they are medically exempted.

"The Department of Defense is establishing a smallpox vaccination program to protect the health and safety of military personnel. Smallpox is a serious infectious disease. We cannot quantify the threat of it being used as a bioweapon; we know the

consequences of its use could be great," said William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs. "Vaccinating servicemembers before an attack is the best way to ensure that our troops are protected and that they can continue their missions if a smallpox outbreak occurs."

Smallpox is caused by a virus called variola, which spreads from person to person through prolonged close contact. Smallpox can cause a severe rash covering the whole body that can leave permanent scars, high fever, severe headache or backache. Smallpox kills about three out of 10 people infected.

In the United States, routine vaccination against smallpox ended around 1972. In May 1980, the World Health Organization declared the global eradication of smallpox as a naturally occurring disease and recommended that all countries cease vaccination. Military smallpox vaccination programs continued longer. In 1984, routine military vaccinations were limited to recruits entering basic training. This practice was discontinued in 1990. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of

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Sailor Instructors Improve DC Readiness Training

By JO1 Scott Long, USNR

COLUMBUS, OHIO - Reservists from Afloat Training Group (ATG) Mayport, Detachment 201, Providence, Rhode Island, traveled to Columbus Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center recently to undergo General Shipboard Damage Control (GSDC) training. It was a case of training the trainers..

Ten members from Providence ATG participated, including Commanding Officer Lt. Cmdr Kevin Bertelsen and Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Chris Murphy.

"By doing the hands-on training, you can better understand the discipline of Damage Control aboard a ship," Bertelsen said.

Murphy refers to DC training in terms of readiness. "If there is an emergency aboard ship, you can help out and you become an instant asset."

Personnel from ATG-Detachment 105 in Columbus conducted the DC training exercise, covering the basics in a classroom format on Saturday and devoting Sunday to hands-on Damage Control in the simulator.

DC team trainer GSM1 Paul Basham said the Providence group enjoyed the rigor of



Reservists from ATG Det. 201, Providence, RI get DC training

training even though the sailors got thoroughly wet. "During the hands-on portion of the training you will get wet," he said.

"Shipboard Damage Control training is vital to improving each Sailor's readiness," said Basham, "whether it's an initial DC training session or a refresher course."

"With anyone who comes through the course, we do our best to make sure they all learn and make sure they're safe," Basham explained.

The GSDC course has had its share of success. "We've had chiefs and captains come through the course and say they always learn something. Our instructors are very motivated," Basham said.

Typically, ATG-Det 105 re-

ceives enrollment for the GSDC course ranging from new recruits to seasoned sea veterans and Naval Reserve training specialists.

MMC Manfred Diel of Providence ATG said the instructors were highly professional and the course compares favorably with active duty DC training.

The Columbus DC trainer is one of only nine wet training facilities Navy wide.

Columbus NMCRC Command Chief DCCS Robert Campbell attributes the group's success to good old-fashioned hard work. "These guys are out of the limelight. They could easily just go through the motions, but instead they choose to excel in teaching others Damage Control."

Bertelsen puts the course experience into perspective. "It's important to be able to both function in DC as well as train others," he said.

ATG-Mayport also has detachments in Worcester, Massachusetts, Amityville, New York, Buffalo and Baltimore.

NMCRC Buffalo LCU's re-enact D-Day on Lake Erie

By BMC (SW) Kevin Threlkel,
NMCRC Buffalo

Buffalo, NY - June 6th 1944: In the early morning hours, the biggest Naval armada ever assembled stands off Hitler's notorious "Atlantic wall". Hundreds of small assault craft, Higgins boats, are launched from the amphibious ships carrying thousands and thousands of GI's to the landing beaches in northern France – names such as Omaha and Utah beach. So begins D-day, the beginning of the end for the axis powers in Europe.

Sept 21, 2002, Conneaut Ohio: Amid the sounds of small arms fire and machine guns, a thousand people in Township park witness a reenactment of that fateful day, as the Navy's newest modern landing craft hits the beach.

NMCRC Buffalo's Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 1680, a 135 foot 440 ton assault craft, along with two 75 foot Landing Craft Mechanized (LCM) from NRC Cleveland land over 200 reenactors dressed as WWII soldiers on the beach to attack the entrenched 'German soldiers' firing on them from the bluff above. The biggest differ-



LCU-1680 landing assault troops on the beach during D-Day reenactment

ences everyone notices is that as casualties scream and fall, they then catch their breath, get up and fight on – and then after the vicious simulated hand to hand combat, the German and allied troops rise to shake hands, laugh and take photos with one another.

LCU-1680 is manned by Naval Reservists assigned to ACU-2 Det 205 out of NMCRC Buffalo, NY and will land troops in two separate battles this day. The reenactment provides them with invaluable training at loading and unloading personnel and equipment, as well as safely beaching and retracting the craft during simulated 'hot beach' conditions. In the lull between battles, the local

civilian population swarms the beach snapping pictures of the largest Naval vessel afloat on the Great Lakes as well as talking to her crew. Reenactors came from all over the world (some as far as England) to have the opportunity to ride to shore in an actual US Navy assault craft.

LCU-1680 has been home ported at NMCRC Buffalo since 1987. It is powered by two 12-cylinder Detroit Allison 12V-71 diesel engines producing 850 horsepower each. Top speed is 12 knots. There are accommodations onboard for two officers and 12 crewmembers and is capable of carrying 3 tanks or over 150 combat loaded troops.

CoC at NMCRC Amityville, NY

By Lt. Colette M. Murphy, NR
NAVINFO East 102

AMITYVILLE, NY – LCDR Daniel S. Blackburn relieved CDR Eric W. Johnson as Commanding Officer of the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Amityville, NY on Oct. 20, 2002. The Guest of Honor and featured speaker was CAPT Timothy F. Stoessel, Deputy Commander, Naval Reserve Readiness Command NORTHEAST.

The new CO, LCDR Blackburn, is an accomplished Naval officer. He received his commission through NROTC upon graduation from Northwestern University. Following training at SWOS he reported to his initial shipboard assignment on the USS KANSAS CITY (AOR 3), where he distinguished himself in several departments while deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and RESTORE HOPE. He subsequently served onboard USS SEATTLE (AOE 3), USS DETROIT (AOE 4) and USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3), deploying again several times to support such important international exercises as NATO operations in the Former Yugoslavia, three multinational exercises, as

well as providing support for the President of the United States' participation in the G8 summit in Genoa, Italy.

Outgoing CO, CDR Johnson, has a long history of Naval service. He received his commission after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1986, and shortly thereafter reported to his first sea tour onboard USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62). Following completion of the Damage Control Assistant course, he reported onboard USS CAPE COD (AD-43) and deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. He subsequently served at Navy Recruiting District Philadelphia, as a Naval Reserve Officer Recruiter in Brooklyn, NY and at NAS Willow Grove, PA. In 1996, CDR Johnson reported to Naval Reserve Recruiting Command Detachment SEVEN in Denver, CO and later received orders to Naval Reserve Readiness Command Region SIX in Washington, DC. He assumed command of Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center, Amityville, NY in March 2001. His next assignment is Executive Officer, Naval Reserve Recruiting Command, Area NORTH-

EAST.

During his remarks, CAPT Stoessel noted that the world changed during CDR Johnson's watch and more than 90 Reservists from NMCRC Amityville were mobilized following Sept. 11, 2001 in support of Operations NOBLE EAGLE and ENDURING FREEDOM. "I cannot say enough about the tremendous job CDR Johnson has done, particularly during such extreme times. He performed superbly and exceeded every requirement," CAPT Stoessel said.

During CDR Johnson's tenure, two Reserve units assigned to NMCRC Amityville earned the Sydney Fields Award, an annual award granted to Naval Reserve units which have attained a high level of mission effectiveness, often meaning exceedingly high mobilization readiness, community involvement, advancement of personnel and facilities improvement.

In his final remarks, Cmdr. Johnson told his Reserve officers and enlisted personnel, "I salute you. You are the best of the best and you have all made me very proud."

MIUW Suppo Outlines Lessons from Mobilization in Souda Bay



OS1 Eric Caledonia (left), BM1 Stephen Zuffelato (center), and EM1 Matthew Paquette (right), assigned to IBU 21 patrol the harbor in the eastern Greek port of Souda Bay, Crete. IBU 21 and MIUW 202 returned home to Newport, RI in October, 2002.

By LCDR Sibley, MIUW 214

Twelve months ago I was sitting at my desk at the Fleet Boston Financial Group. I had just received a return telephone call from MIUWU 214, (Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit) located in the Bronx, New York. The phone call concerned my turnover to the MIUW 214 Supply Officer, regarding this unit's upcoming "AT" to Vieques, Puerto Rico. I needed to pass procedures for proper processing of HAZMAT on Roosevelt Roads, inventories of the four conex boxes that we had updated and a list of contacts

for the usual list of "Supply" responsibilities such as berthing, messing, fuel and secure storage for CESE, (Civil Engineer Support Equipment) etc. The storekeeper to whom I was speaking, paused and said, "Oh wow the World Trade Center is on fire"...

In January 2002, I was on my way to Europe with an advance party to my unit's duty station of Souda Bay, Crete, Greece.

As a direct commission officer with no active duty experience, I was leaving the banking career which I knew

well after 21 years and embarking on my second career, where my experience was substantially less. Ultimately the principles that I use in my civilian career, experience gained during my three year tour as Assistant Supply Officer and Supply Officer with NMCB, (Navy Marine Corps Construction Battalion) 27 and that "long ago" education I received at Pork Chop U. (in Athens, Georgia) steered me onto the right course.

I was the senior person on the advance party to Souda Bay. The advance party of five, was responsible to establish berthing, procure transportation, office space, computer assets, communication assets, plus accomplish a host of operational requirements. Upon arriving at Souda Bay, the base "Chop" told me that he would help in everyway he could, however since 9-11 NSA Souda Bay had been augmented with over 600 other reservists which quadrupled the base's manning. The Lieutenant was politely telling me that, "Chop there ain't no berthing or for that matter any assets that are readily available, so it is time to get working".

Everyday turned into a lesson to be jotted down in a wheel book and everyday was certainly challenging. When my

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Photo by PH3 Gina Delas, NAVINPO East 102, NYC

STG2 Joe Conroy, assigned to MIUWU 202 Detachment Souda Bay, Crete, carefully surveys the coastline around the Souda Bay harbor.

MIUW Suppo *(Continued from page 11)*

seven month deployment was over and the plane's wheels touched down back in the States, there was no doubt in my mind that: 1) my family was the most important aspect of my life, 2) I was a little prouder of being an American and 3) my time as unit's Supply officer had been rewarding. Some of the key lessons I learned were:

1. Always plan for contingencies, because nothing goes according to plan.

Force protection issues and mission contingencies made berthing negotiations challenging. I needed to ensure that the hotels would lock into a favorable rate for six months at a rate that was less than the local "per diem". Unfortunately, I couldn't

guarantee the hoteliers occupancy for all or a portion of the 120 sailors that would remain in Crete for the desired six months.

With assistance from a Base contracting officer and with frequent communications to the hoteliers and to the unit's executive and commanding officers, we successfully contracted for berthing, procured an office with computer assets plus the internet, "NIPR net" and "SIPR net". Due to the hard work of the advance body's enlisted sailors, the unit was able to operate within 48 hours of the arrival of our equipment and provide surveillance and patrol boat, force protection for the USS Enterprise.

2. Core Supply Issues always remain Core Supply Issues

Once the operation commenced the Supply department's focus immediately became procuring repair parts. Attached to the MIUW was an Inshore Boat Unit. Their Table of Allowance included three twenty-seven foot boats. Each boat had dual Volvo Penta engines. The majority of our time in months two through five was spent chasing boat parts through "open purchase" channels in Europe. It quickly became clear that we needed to identify sources of supply and perform a comparative analysis which evaluated the vendors' pricing structure and delivery times. We analyzed vendors on Crete, in Naples and back in the States.

While I, as the Supply Officer, had to deal with such details as competitive prices and limitations placed on "open purchase" procurements, the boat unit operators were concerned with only one issue, "Where is my Part?". By integrating the Boat Unit's skipper, executive officer and senior chief into the ordering process, the process ran smoothly and CAS-REPs were minimized. To any direct commission officer with no prior experience, I would recommend a tour with the Seabees. Sure,

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MIUW Suppo (Continued from page 12)

CEC officers are similar to Line officers, however you will learn a lot during your tour and the pain will eventually stop. You will probably learn the Seabee fight song as well.

3. The rewards of being a Supply Officer await the willing.

Supply, the N-4 Department, is there to support the mission. Once operations commence, the Operations Department, N-3 has control. However, it became clear numerous times, that there are occasions when Supply will make key decisions that decide the success of the mission. Asking the Boat operators if they should reorder parts to rebuild the out-drive versus waiting for three weeks due to a back order for a new out-drive, may prevent a CASREP. Recommending a different means of transportation for a key repair part for the radar's digital tracking monitor may save three days on the delivery. Running an efficient shop with good records and justification, will likely get that Optar augment when the Chop asks for it.

To the future deployment...

R/LCDR Sibley

Active/Reserve mix may change

WASHINGTON - Certain military job specialties, including military police and civil affairs, are being overburdened in the Reserve components and may need stronger representation in the active duty force according to the Defense Department's senior adviser on Reserve affairs.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for Reserve affairs, told a group of reporters that repeated call-ups of certain specialties might eventually hurt recruiting and retention in the Reserve forces.

Hall related his experiences while meeting with state representatives for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program in St. Louis. He said employers generally support Reserve duty by their workers, but at times it can become a burden, particularly for small businesses and private practices.

"When their Reservist is mobilized for the first time, it's probably OK," Hall said the state employer representatives told him. "When they're mobilized for the second time, it might be okay. But when they're mobilized the third time in three years run-

ning, this causes a particular problem for the Reservist, their family and the employers."

Still, he cautioned, service members shouldn't look for a mass exodus of specialties being moved from the Reserve components to the active force. He called it more of a "rebalancing."

Hall was sworn in Oct. 9, but he was already familiar with issues facing Reserve forces. He previously commanded the Naval Reserve for four years after a 34-year active duty career as a naval aviator.

He said the greatest challenge facing him in his job isn't necessarily about the numbers. Ensuring Reserve forces are effective when called is much more important than how many there are, he remarked.

"The guiding principle for all of us should be that we have the right Reservist with the right equipment (and) the right training at the right place at the right time to help make a difference in any conflict," he said.



New Web policy stresses security

By CNRF Public Affairs

NEW ORLEANS - The Naval Reserve Force has launched a new Web policy for its Reservists.

Hundreds of existing Naval Reserve Web sites will be replaced with both public and private Web pages.

Private sites will host unclassified information such as staff phone numbers, e-mail, organization charts, drill schedules and other information. Much of this information is not allowed on public Web pages due to operational security concerns.

Commander, Naval Reserve Forces Command will absorb all costs associated with developing and maintaining these Web sites. Headquarters will also oversee policy information such as drill pay and training initiatives. Every Web page throughout the Naval Reserve Force will have the same content, which will ensure standard information.

REDCOM Northeast and its subordinate commands will begin crossing over Web sites early in 2003.

Naval Personnel Command develops New "Reserve Cell"

MILLINGTON, Tenn. - In an effort to provide a single dedicated source of career information support to Selected Reserve Sailors and their families, the Navy Personnel Command (NPC) has established a new NPC Reserve Cell.

The NPC Reserve Cell is a team of career management specialists who work side by side with their active duty counterparts at NPC's Center for Career Development (CCD) and join the Career Information Travel Team on visits around the fleet.

"The Reserve Cell focuses on people, regardless of their Navy affiliation, by working one-on-one with drilling Reserve and Training and Administration of Reserves (TAR) personnel and their families to empower them with the information they need to make informed career decisions," said CCD spokesman, Lt. j.g. Bill Danzi.

"We are taking NPC's career information fairs and resources provided to active duty Sailors and leadership, and expanding them to Reservists," said Senior Chief

Information Systems Technician (SW) Andrew Bond, Reserve Policy Action Officer for CCD.

Reserve Sailors and their families can now log on to the StayNAVY web site (www.staynavy.navy.mil) for the latest Reserve pay and personnel information as well as links to other Naval Reserve Web sites. Sailors and their families are also welcome to contact NPC's Customer Service Center, 1-866-U-ASK-NPC for answers to Reserve career questions as well as pay and benefits information.

For more information about the NPC Reserve Cell, log on to the StayNAVY web site at www.StayNAVY.navy.mil. Select the 'Contact Us' link at the bottom of the page and scroll to view Reserve Programs information.

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CENTCOM (Continued from page 2)

CENTCOM ahead of the game and able to execute the mission.

"At USCENTCOM one out of every three service members you meet in the passage-way is a Reservist," said Cmdr. Bill Intille, the USCENTCOM Naval Reserve liaison officer. "This command could not function without use of Reservists in a wartime environment. This command is realizing that Reservists are a vital cog in this machine."

Intille said Reservists play an integral role in supporting the USCENTCOM mission.

"Reservists made themselves invaluable pieces of the puzzle in a short time," said Intille. "In particular, the Navy picked up a large piece of the intelligence support pie here at USCENTCOM and they have made a name for themselves."

Intelligence Specialist 1st Class Sugar Bellews, a USCENTCOM order of battle production manager from Tampa, Fla., finds the Reserve unit dedication to training a key to success for recalled Reservists such as herself.

"Reservists get the training to do the active duty job one

weekend a month and two weeks a year, so we were able to come right through the door, have minimal additional training and just sit down at our desks to get right to work," said Bellews. "The Reservists here knew the programs and have had all the training. As long as commands continue to train their people then Reservists will continue to make great contributions."

As Reservists continue to work hard in each of their work centers, they are making differences across the board.

"Reservists really make contributions in every area," said De La Paz, echoing her shipmates' observations. "You really can't tell the differences between active duty and Reservists here. Reservists have been integrated into every facet of the command."

Reservists, who have trained with the same equipment and software as their active duty counterparts, have paved the way for a more positive perception of Reservists in general.

At USCENTCOM and other commands, they are proving their worth.

"One of the things that I've noticed is this change in the attitude towards Reservists,"

said Morgan. "I'm seeing the active duty is coming to realize that there is more to being a Reservist than coming in on the weekend and hanging out. We are constantly training and honing our skills to fill in, to integrate."

"The current situation we are in makes you look closely at why you entered the Reserve," said Morgan. "We didn't join for money ... it goes way beyond that. We're here for the camaraderie, belief in the mission and the belief in the service."

Morgan is not alone in his strong feelings about wanting to make a difference and serve his country.

"In many ways having a family with children makes it emotionally easier to be recalled," began De La Paz whose adopted daughter had lived with her for a year when she was recalled. "Having a family makes you want to go more because you have more of a reason to keep the country free for your children and their generation."

For more information about U.S. Central Command, go to www.centcom.mil.



Bravo Zulu

MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

CAPT CHRIS BRENNAN MSCO PG

NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL

CDR DONALD CHASE NCAPS
 CDR SIMON HILLMAN NCAPS
 CDR ROXANNE TWEEDY
 NR FH FT DIX DET 7
 CDR KISHIDA, EARL NR SEAL TEAM 2
 CDR BUCKLEY, JOHN
 NR NAVSEAWARCEN 101
 CDR LORSON, RAYMOND
 NR NAVSEAWARCEN 101
 CDR TOWNSEND, JAMES
 COMSUBLANT BGS 201
 LCDR ROBERT PERRY COMSCEUR 101
 LCDR DAVID KENNEY
 COMSCEUR 101
 LCDR MICHAEL SUMRALL QUINCY
 LCDR R. CHAN NR PERSGULF
 LCDR VINCENT, CYNTHIA
 NR PERSMOBTEAM 101

NAVY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

CDR R. YARRISH NR FH FT DIX
 CDR D. BOCCIO NR PMS WASH
 LCDR SIGMUND FLECK
 LCDR ROBERT CORRIGAN
 NR NCAPS CENT C
 LCDR J. PERDUTO NR PERSGULF
 LCDR BASTIEN, PETER
 NAVSEAWARCENDIV 101
 LCDR LIMJUCO, JOSEPH
 LCDR YOUNES, PAULA
 NR PERSMOBTEAM 101
 LCDR GARRY
 BATTLEGROUP STAFF TWO
 LCDR GONSALVES SPAWAR 101
 LT CHRISTOPHER PHAN
 LSO NORTH CENT 104
 LT ROBERT HORNER NCAPS CENT C
 LT JOHN SION NR NCAPS CENT C
 LT ROBERT PETRY NRCC NAPLES
 LT D. ORTIZ NR FH FT DIX DET 15
 LT KIRSCH, JEREMY
 MOBDIVSALU TWO DET 101
 LT BALLOU NR MSC PG 101
 LTJG M. MCMORROW PMS WASH
 LTJG A. SMITH NR PMS WASH
 YNCS FRANK WHALEY NRC FT. DIX
 DTC R. PEREZ NR NMCB 1121
 ICC RICHARD CLEMENS NRC FT. DIX
 MMC DIEL, MANFRED NR FTG 201
 PNC CAMPBELL NR ONR TECH
 IT1 C. MARTINEZ NR NCAPS
 OS1 DONALD HEFFNER
 PC1 TERRELL HILL NR MOBMAIL
 SK1 ANN WARD NRC FT. DIX
 SK1 B. VILLACRESES NR FFG 39 AUG
 YN1 ROSIE ROSSITTO

LSO NORTH CENT 104
 YN1 KATHLEEN WHITE NRC FT. DIX
 YN2 SIMMONS, SHAWN
 DK2 J. GONZALEZ NR NCAPS
 EN2 D. COSME NR FLTMAINSUP 1802
 GM2 G. HARPE NR VTU 207
 HM2 T. NAGAPOOLY
 NR FH FT DIX DET 15
 HT2 W. DORAN
 NR FLTMAINSUP 1802
 HM3 EUGENE BROOKS NRC FT. DIX
 PN3 FRANK ROSSI
 LSO NORTH CENT 104
 SK3 NICHOLAS MARTINI
 LSO NORTH CENT 104
 PNSN GALVANGOICOECHEA, LIRIO
 NR FFG 39

NR MERITORIOUS SERVICE

LCDR TORREON, BEN
 NR NWDC
 ITCM JAMES RYAN NRC BANGOR
 HT1 EVERETT BENNETT PNSY DET
 MS1 ANGELIA MOSER
 NCTAMS LANT

SEABEE COMBAT WARFARE

EO2 EUGENE FLETCHER
 NMCB 27

NRMOVSM

LCDR LEAHY
 NR COMICEDFOR 101

Smallpox (Continued from page 7)

September 11, 2001 and the subsequent anthrax letter attacks, the Department of Defense reassessed the threat of a smallpox attack. The resumption of a smallpox vaccination program is intended to ensure that the military can achieve its missions in case smallpox is used as a bioweapon. DoD continues to work closely with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be prepared to protect the nation in the event

of a smallpox outbreak.

Further information regarding the Department of Defense smallpox vaccination program can be found at www.vaccines.army.mil/smallpox.asp

CMC's Corner - (Continued from page 7)

This is not a task we take lightly. Our region is blessed with outstanding Full Time Support and Drilling Reserve personnel. It is extremely difficult to decide which ones to select. A person once told me it's an honor just to be nominated. That is true. Each individual center that must select their nominees experience the same difficulties we face at the regional board. How to decide which Sailors to nominate from so many outstanding personnel.

Good luck to all who are nominated. It is our desire to select Sailors that everyone in the region can look up to and know they were deserving of selection. To those who were not nominated, keep doing the great things you are – you will be recognized.

I appreciate the great job you are doing and the sacrifices you make each and every day.